in Queen Anns Time

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REASONS *humbly offered by the Merchants of* London, *Trading to* Hamborough *and* Holland, *to the Honourable* House *of* Commons, *againſt a Clauſe in a Bill now depending before that Honourable Houſe (for granting to Her Majeſty new Duties of Exciſe, &c.) relating to Draw-backs.*

I. THE ſaid Traders paying (~~chearfully~~ in ready Mony) very large Duties upon Goods Imported, it would be the greateſt Hardſhip and Diſcouragement imaginable to lay them under the Bonds required by the ſaid Clauſe, and would drive the chief Traders out of the Trade.

II. Many of the ſaid Merchants buy Goods at an *Eaſt-India* Sale to the value of from 20 to 100000 *l.* which are chiefly Exported again by Certificate, and it will be impoſſible for them to procure ſufficient Security for ſuch large Sums; and the greateſt part being by Commiſſion from abroad (where they never pay ſo high Duties, as the ſeveral Laws of thoſe Countries require) if it were poſſible to procure the Security, yet they could not the Certificates for diſcharging the Bonds, ſince if the Certificates mention the whole Goods, that will cauſe them to be ſeiz'd; and beſides, no Man for the ſake of a Commiſſion, will give ſuch a Security, and ſubject his own Eſtate for ſo ſmall a Conſideration, whereby the greateſt part of the Traders will be entirely debarr'd from Trading.

III. If the Certificate ſhould be returned in the diſcharge of the Security; yet, if at any time after there ſhould appear the leaſt Variation between the Export and that Certificate (as this Clauſe is drawn) the Merchant-Exporter (tho' no ways guilty of any Fraud, lies liable to a Penalty of Forfeiting double the value of the whole Goods, without being at all concern'd in the Property) or having any Benefit thereby, beſides his Commiſſion.

IV. The Difficulty and Attendance that will be unavoidable, in taking up thoſe Bonds, is another Reaſon againſt it (ſince the Merchants are already under Hardſhips enough in Trade) and the Experience they have already had, in Caſes where Certificates are required, lays them under very great Apprehenſions of the Miſchiefs attending it.

V. The great Diſproportion between the Duties on Raw Silk, Sugars, *&c.* and the Penalty is ſo very great (being 20 to 1) that it ſeems to be very unreaſonable, and a very great Clog and Burthen on Trade; and in the *Weſt-India* Trade the Voyages are ſo long, and return ſo uncertain, that the Merchants can never ſee an end of their Buſineſs, and muſt ly under very great Uneaſineſs whilſt ſuch Bonds are ſtanding out againſt them, eſpecially conſidering the nature of Extents, which muſt needs be very detrimental to their Credit.

Many more Reaſons might be added againſt this Clauſe of very great Importance, but ſome of them having been hinted at by other parts of Trade, Its hoped theſe will be deemed ſufficient to induce this Honourable Houſe to leave out the ſaid Clauſe, or give them ſuch other Reliſf as to your Honours ſhall ſeem meet.

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REASONS *humbly offered by the Merchants Trading to* Hambrough *and* Holland, *againſt a Clauſe in a Bill now depending, for granting to Her Majeſty new Duties of Exciſe,* &c. *relating to Draw-backs.*